



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1725 | FAX (517) 373.0741

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/mcmanus/

For Immediate Release
January 5, 2005

Contact: Patrick Kane
517-373-1725

Three new laws sponsored by Sen. McManus will benefit Northern Michigan

LANSING – Two bills aimed at helping preserve Michigan’s natural resources and one bill to aid communities in their economic development efforts were signed into law Monday, announced Sen. Michelle McManus, sponsor of the legislation.

“Residents of Northern Michigan will see a direct benefit from these bills,” said McManus, R-Lake Leelanau. “They address both environmental and economic concerns expressed to me by my constituents during the 2004 session, and I am pleased to see them become law.”

Senate Bill 925, now Public Act 529, creates a Michigan “Right to Burn Act” and establishes criteria for prescribed burning. It also affords liability to landowners who are certified, or who employ a certified burn operator, in the event that a prescribed burn gets out of hand.

SB 926, now P.A. 537, extends the current restrictions on feeding deer and elk through Jan. 1, 2010. The restrictions prohibit a person from feeding deer or elk except for recreational viewing purposes and require that the feed be deposited or distributed on the property of the person doing the feeding not more than 100 yards from their home. The bill is necessary to continue the Natural Resource Commission’s work on stopping the spread of Bovine Tuberculosis and other diseases.

SB 1201, now P.A. 521, permits two local units of government to create a joint downtown development authority under the Urban Cooperation Act. This would allow for administrative cost savings and greater coordination of development strategy along business corridors that span more than one unit of government. The bill is part of the Creating Opportunities for Renewed Economies – CORE – package, which is geared toward expanding and coordinating many state economic programs to operate more effectively, as well as provide incentives for growth in cities and villages.

In all, McManus saw ten bills she sponsored in 2004 signed into law.

###